

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 84-0710/3

16 MAR 84

CHRONO

The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield  
United States Senate  
475 Cottage Street, N.E.  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Hatfield:

STAT This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13 February 1984 concerning a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from [ ] is also seeking a waiver of fees for searches to be performed as a result of his request.

STAT There have been numerous exchanges of correspondence between [ ] the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Information and Privacy Coordinator, and [ ] regarding this request.

STAT We have attempted to explain to [ ] that the FOIA neither authorizes nor requires research to respond to a request; nor does it require an Agency to create a document. It was also explained to [ ] that our records management officers design and operate our records systems to be responsive to our intelligence functions. It is unfortunate that this does not always allow retrieval of information pursuant to an FOIA request. The Agency's letter to [ ] dated 17 January, specifically offered to do a limited search on his request and also asked for a commitment to pay search fees, since it was not deemed to be information primarily benefitting the public.

STAT Thus far, [ ] has not responded to this 17 January letter; hence, his request was suspended. It should be noted that the Agency never refused to search for pertinent documents, but that we may not be able to locate the specific information he is seeking.

STAT Should [ ] decide he wishes the Agency to reactivate  
STAT his request and make a commitment to pay the search fees, he  
STAT should write directly to [ ]

STAT To assist you in understanding what has transpired  
STAT between [ ] and the CIA, I am enclosing copies of  
correspondence relating to his request.

Sincerely,

/s/

Clair E. George  
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

Enclosures

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STAT LD/OLL [ ] :gg (15 March 1984)